

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-02

L-03 H-02 CPR-01 PC-01 AID-05 OPR-02 A-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /068 W
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P R 131411Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4565

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PINT, KE

SUBJECT: KENYA POLICE SWEEP NETS AMCITS

SUMMARY: OVERZEALOUS KENYA POLICE DETAINED APPROXIMATELY 250 ALIENS OVER PAST WEEKEND FOR UP TO 36 HOURS OR MORE IN OPERATION DESCRIBED AS ROUTINE DOCUMENTS CHECK. EMBASSY HAS PROTESTED LACK OF CONSULAR ACCESS AND POOR CONDITIONS OF DETENTION OF FIVE AFFECTED AMCITS INCLUDING 2 PCVS. END SUMMARY.

1. POLICE CONDUCTED SURPRISE IDENTITY CHECK AUG. 8-10 OVER LARGE AREA IN CENTRAL KENYA AND IN MOMBASA IN FDFORT TO UNCOVER UNREGISTERED ALIENS. FOREIGNERS WHO COULD NOT SHOW IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS (AS REQUIRED UNDER 1974 LAW) WERE IMMEDIATELY DETAINED. AMONG APPROXIMATELY 250 ARRESTED NATIONWIDE WERE FIVE AMERICANS (INCLUDING 2 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN NAKURU - JUDY STEDMAN AND SARAH HAUSAUER AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELL AS DAUGHTER OF NAIROBI-BASED NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT,

CHARLES MOHR, WHO WAS SEIZED IN MOMBASA). ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AFTER PERIODS IN DETENTION RANGING UP TO 36 HOURS IN CASE OF PCV HAUSAUER.

2. POLICE ACTION IN NAKURU, WHERE MAJORITY OF ARRESTS WERE MADE, HAS COME IN FOR HEAVY CRITICISM FROM NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. OFFICIALS OF EIGHT MISSIONS (INCLUDING U.S.) MET AUG. 12 AT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION TO COMPARE NOTES AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION. BRITISH AND FRENCH HAVE LODGED STRONG PROTESTS OVER POLICE DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS. ACCORDING PERSONAL ACCOUNTS, NAKURU POLICE PREVENTED THOSE SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO GET IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, REFUSED REQUESTS FOR PHONE CALLS, HERDED LARGE NUMBERS INTO SMALL CELLS WITHOUT SANITATION FACILITIES, FOOD OR WATER AND SUBJECTED SEVERAL TO PHYSICAL ABUSE. THIS EMBASSY ALSO SENT NOTE AUG. 13 PROTESTING DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS AND MALTREATMENT OF AMERICANS DETAINED IN NAKURU.

3. LOCAL PRESS HAS ALSO QUESTIONED POLICE METHODS WITH NATION, IN AUG. 12 EDITORIAL, ASKING VP MOI (WHO AS MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICE) FOR EXPLANATION. MOI, IN WIDELY PUBLICIZED AUG. 13 RESPONSE, DEFENDED POLICE SWEEP AS COMMON WORLDWIDE PRACTICE AND REQUESTED UNDERSTANDING AND PATIENCE BY PUBLIC IN VIEW OF FACT ALIEN DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT WAS NEW IN KENYA.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING POLICE SOURCE, SWEEP WAS ROUTINE BUT NAKURU POLICE GOT OUT OF HAND AND LOCAL POLICE CHIEF HAS NOW BEEN CALLED ON CARPET. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ALIEN CHECK WAS PROMPTED BY ANY SPECIFIC EVENT OR POLITICAL MOTIVE, AND WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT EXPLANATION THAT LOWER LEVEL POLICE ACTED OVER-ENTHUSIASTICALLY.
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